

TELEGRAMS.

(Via South.)

THE SUEZ CANAL.

LONDON, June 16.

The Suez Canal Commission has completed its deliberations. England accepts in principle International control.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

OUTWARD BOUND:—Gulf of Suez, May 12; Gravelle, May 19; Antenor, Bremen, May 29; Humber, Pella, June 2; Tlavia, June 5; Eclair, June 9; Jellert, Humber, Melbourne, and Light, June 16. HOMEWARD BOUND:—Archives, June 5; Dandelion, June 9.

The next EXHIBITION MAIL, per the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Reynold*, left Singapore for this port on Saturday, the 13th inst., at 8 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Thursday, the 18th inst.

The next AMERICAN MAIL, per the P. M. S. Co.'s steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, left Yokohama Sunday, the 14th inst., at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Saturday, the 20th inst.

The S. S. *Kaituma* left Singapore for this port on the 12th inst.

The E. & A. S. Co.'s steamer *Tannadice* left Port Darwin for this port on the 13th inst., and may be expected here on the 2nd at night.

The Union Line steamer *Thorn* left Singapore for Hongkong on the 12th inst., and may be expected to arrive here on or about the 18th inst.

The Austro-Hungarian Lloyd's steamer *Bavaria* left Singapore on the 16th inst., and may be expected here on the 22nd inst.

DOCK MOVEMENT.—The *Zephyr* went to Kowloon Dock today.

CONSULS were quoted in London yesterday at 90.

The Coroner's enquiry concerning the death of the Chinese gardener, who was recently killed by four men at Wong-nai-chong, has been adjourned *sine die*.

GEORGE CHABE, P.O. 80, who has, we believe, been in the Hongkong Police Force for two or three years, died this morning at the Government Civil Hospital, where he has for some time been suffering from fever.

The tone of the tea market in London is dull. If, as we surmise, the Suez Canal is now reopened, the tea steamer will not be delayed, and the tea market will not suffer as it would have done had the steamers been detained.

A CORONER'S inquest was opened this afternoon at the mortuary upon the body of Charles Vurman, the seaman who died suddenly at Lemon's boarding house on the 16th inst. No evidence was taken, the jury merely viewing the body, and the enquiry was then adjourned.

A JAPANESE native paper says that a rumour is current in Osaka that a large quantity of silk is expected to be imported from Hongkong to compete with Japanese silk. The Japanese are heavily taxed. A scheme for starting a silk industry is now under contemplation at Hongkong. We have not heard of any scheme of this nature ourselves.

THE S. S. *Zafiro* arrived here last evening in charge of Captain Talbot, and has been placed upon the slip at Hung-ham. We understand that many of the plates in her bottom are bent into all kinds of shapes but are not broken. The damaged plates will have to be rolled and replaced and it is expected that it will take from three to four months to effect the necessary repairs.

The Japan Mail of the 6th inst. has a translation of the following item from a native paper:—An employ of an English firm at Kobe presented for payment three forged cheques for \$9,890, to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on the 24th ult. After exchanging the silver for banknotes at another bank, the culprit fled to Sakascho, Hyogo. The Kobe paper, the *Higo News*, mentions the fact that a forgery of the above nature took place, records the clever capture of the forger—a lad of nineteen—and his accomplices, and the recovery of almost the whole of the money stolen by the forger, but, mysteriously enough, keeps the name of the firm and the bank a profound secret.

THE *Shen Pao* of the 1st of June contains a telegraphic copy of a decree, issued on the 29th of May, granting, in accordance with established precedent, remission of sentence to certain disgraced officials condemned to the postroads. Among the names of those whose cases are not to be considered appear Chang Pei-lun, 'who incurred punishment for a military offence,' and Lu Wang-ching (North), 'who has not yet started for the north.' The Editor, however, carefully guards against mistake by suggesting that there may be errors in the names. It seems to dispose of the reports of the restoration of Chang Pei-lun to his former rank and his appointment as Minister to Russia.

THE *Japan* papers received today by the *Sumatra* deny the report that the Kido Uruy Kwaiba's steamer *Ozumi Maru* had been blown up, and eighty lives lost. The rumour, says the *Gazette*, has no foundation, and the *Mail* remarks:—'When it is stated that yesterday afternoon a similar report was circulated about one of the Mitsui Bishi steamers, it is not too much to say that the propagation of mere rumour is quite as bad as its invention.'

In this respect we think Hongkong is on a par with Japan. Yesterday and on Monday

a rumour was industriously circulated that the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s steamer *White Cloud* had been blown up. It is almost needless to say that the rumour was utterly without foundation. Who is it?

In the course of a memorial exonerating Shan Pao-ching, Tau-tai of Fukien, from charges of insubordination, obstinacy, embezzlement and maladministration, the High Provincial Authorities and Tso Tung-tang incidentally mention several interesting facts as to the affair at Manoi on 22nd August last. Over a million taels have been spent in the coast defences of the Province, exclusive of 500 or 600,000 taels expended in the purchase of munitions of war at the instance of Chang Pei-lun. The arsenal had made no provision of torpedoes and rockets and the store in the city was small. The 21,000 were expended on the new Kianpai fort, which was easily repaired after the French left the Min and now mounts three guns. The 40 junks prepared to block the passage at Changmen were abandoned by their guards and drifted ashore; they were afterwards used at Linpo and the Mei-hua Channel.

This afternoon we were somewhat surprised and puzzled at receiving from the Government printers, a 'Supplement to the Hongkong Government Gazette of 9th May, 1885,' containing a copy of the Register of Medical and Surgical Practitioners qualified to practise medicine and surgery in this Colony on that date. There have evidently been *laches* on the part of some one. Clause 4 of the Medical Registration Ordinance (No. 6 of 1884) provides that 'a copy of the Register shall be published by the Colonial Secretary in the first Gazette issued after every succeeding 3rd of May.' This provision has apparently been overlooked at the proper time. The copy is dated the 9th May, and is issued under the hand of the Hon. W. H. Marsh, Colonial Secretary, but it is inconceivable that the register should have been made out on the 9th May, and remained in the hands of the printers undelivered for forty days. The matter is trifling, but it is as well to note it.

On the 12th inst. a letter informs us that the Suez Canal has been blocked by the sinking of a dredger, and that it is expected the Canal will remain blocked for a fortnight. One would surmise that the dredger had sunk within a day, or two days at the most, of the date of the telegram, and that therefore the Canal would remain blocked until about the 24th or 25th of this month, yet on the 16th inst., yesterday, a telegram is received from London stating that four steamers have just passed the Canal, and among these is the French mail steamer *Melbourne*. This steamer was only due at Suez on the 15th inst., so that the block must either have occurred in the Canal about a week before Reuter's telegram arrived—which is not likely—or the obstruction has been removed sooner than was anticipated. However, if Reuter had informed us of the actual state of affairs, instead of leaving us to draw, perhaps, erroneous conclusions.

A MONUMENT has recently been erected in the Protestant Cemetery at Happy Valley in memory of Messrs. Frizell, Scott and Pinker, the gentlemen who, with others, lost their lives by the explosion on board the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s steamer *Yotsi*, in the Canton River, on Sunday, the 25th February last year, while the steamer was on a trial trip from Hongkong to Macao. The monument is in the form of an obelisk, made of polished Peterhead granite, and presents a very attractive appearance. There are inscriptions on four sides. On one side it is briefly stated that the monument has been erected by a few friends of the deceased, and that deceased lost their lives through the explosion. On the other sides are given the ages and names of the deceased. Some dissatisfaction is felt by some of the subscribers at the fact that no mention has been made of the deceased's connection with the Dock Co., all three gentlemen being servants of the Company when the accident occurred, but this overlook can and should be easily remedied.

THE Directors of the Local Gas Company announce in another column that from the 1st of next month the price of gas will be reduced from \$3.60 to \$3 per 1,000 cubic feet. Consumers of over 10,000 feet per month will continue to receive, as heretofore, a bonus of 10 per cent. This step is no doubt taken by the Directors to encourage the consumption of gas, but if the experience of the majority of consumers is the same as our own and that of some of our acquaintances, the innovation will not be looked upon with much favour. We have found that as the rate was lowered bills got higher, although the consumption is apparently the same. How this should be so surprises common comprehension, and will probably never be satisfactorily explained, but the increase in the bills has gone on so steadily for some considerable time past, that several residents have at length been compelled to make arrangements for lighting their premises by other means. It may be that the days have grown shorter and the nights longer since gas was first introduced into Hongkong; but, however that may be, one thing is certain, i.e. that in establishments which have increased but little since then, the gas bills have nearly doubled.

THE *Peking Gazette* of the 22nd May contains Tso Tung-tang's report on the conduct of the officers of the Chinese forces on the 22nd of August, 1884. Of Fang Tao-tai's men (who are said to have looted the foreign houses at Manoi), it is stated 'the artillerymen fled at the first alarm, whereby the various forts were destroyed utterly. Discipline was not maintained in ordinary times and on the day of battle they did not fight. The Foochow people hate them to this day.' The Tao-tai Chu, a stout dark old gentleman whom many in Foochow will remember conversing with the British Consul on the Club porch on the afternoon of the bombardment, is leniently treated, because, although he did draw pay for imaginary soldiers to some extent, and although his men did have disputes with, but did not harass, the marketpeople, 'his good services in patrolling day and night on Nantai, whereby the foreign hongs were preserved from the contemplated attacks of the rabble, must not be overlooked,' and also, perhaps, because he served under Tso against the Taiping rebels. He is, however, compelled to retire into private life.

In our report of the conclusion of the hearing of the case of Wong Shing Hing v. Reza and others, given last night, we stated that His Honour, Mr. Akeroyd, said 'that without forming any opinion he thought plaintiff had an equitable claim of some kind on the defendants but no legal one.' We are now informed that what His Honour said was that he could not at the moment, and without examining the authorities and the facts of the case, state what were plaintiff's legal claims, but he had no doubt that plaintiff had a very strong case for liberal consideration from the Portuguese Government, what foreigners called an equitable claim. His Honour would not say then that plaintiff had no legal claim upon the defendants, but he thought that considering that the Wei Sing lottery had been started in Canton after the plaintiff purchased the same, plaintiff should receive liberal consideration from the defendants. We regret having misrepresented His Honour; the mistake would no doubt have been avoided had our reporter been able to be present in Court when the case was concluded.

A NATURAL serious fight occurred this morning between 11.30 and 12 o'clock between a number of street coolies and some fishermen's men from the Central Market. It appears that some score or so of bamboo coolies were engaged carrying some bales of cotton down to the Canton steamer wharf to ship on board one of the boats. Some of the bales fell upon the wharf were utilised as seats by a number of the fishermen's coolies who were awaiting the arrival of their cargo. The coolies in charge of the cotton bales objected to their appropriation by the market men and told them to clear out. This the fishermen refused to do, and then the row began; the parties withdrawing to the Praya to have it out. Carrying poles and bamboos were used with vigour, and the fight became very warm. The police were very soon, however, upon the ground in sufficient force to cope with the combatants and put an end to the disturbance. Twelve of the belligerents were collared and taken up to the Central Station, where they presented a most dilapidated appearance, many of them bleeding freely from wounds about the head. Three of the men, whose injuries appeared to be of a serious nature, were sent away to the Government Civil Hospital, while the remaining nine were locked up, and will be brought before the magistrate.

SAYS THE *Higo News* (Kobe) of the 8th inst.:—A collision took place last night at about half-past two o'clock between the British steamer *Glamorganshire* and the American ship *Clarissa B. Carter*, and resulted in the sinking of the latter, the former being very seriously damaged. From what we have been able to ascertain both vessels were bound in from Yokohama, and had pilots on board. The sailing vessel, when the collision occurred, was about seven miles from Wada Point, standing towards the Osaka side of the bay close hauled on the port tack. When in that position she came into contact with the port side of the *Glamorganshire* just forward of the mizen-mast. The bows of the *Clarissa B. Carter* were stove in by the violence of the blow, and the vessel sank almost immediately in eleven fathoms of water, her topmast yards being just visible. Fortunately the crew managed to escape safely, but they had neither time nor opportunity to save anything before the clothes they stood in. The *Glamorganshire*, also, was seriously damaged by the collision, a gap about twelve feet wide being visible in her side as she now lies ashore close to the new pier. There are, of course, many stories current respecting the cause of this disaster, but the vessel in fault, but as the matter must form the subject of official investigation it will be judicious to refrain from paying attention to these rumours. There is only one thing certain about a collision at sea, and that is an inevitable conflict of testimony.

THE *Japan Herald* says:—In place of the discussion in the native press which Count Ito's treaty with China would naturally have been supposed to provoke, not a single journal writes a word on the subject. We have been assured by a gentleman in Tokio that the explanation of the phenomenon is, that the Government has imposed absolute silence, and the press has obeyed the order.

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THE *Austro-Hungarian* man-of-war *Nautica* left Shanghai on the 11th inst. for Choochow under orders of Count Zulueta, the Minister, who may possibly go to Corea in her.

EXCELLENT coal is said to have been discovered a few feet from the surface of the ground by workmen digging a flower garden in a street near the Yü Shang Gate (the N.W. gate) of Peking.—*Shen Pao*, June 1st.

THE Tao-tai of Shanghai has, the *N.-C. D. News* understands, notified that, the Acting Magistrate of the Mixed Court, Huang, having been permitted to withdraw, an official of higher rank named Koh will assume the duties of Magistrate of the Mixed Court.

SAYS A Hankow correspondent of the *Courier*, writing on the 9th June:—Foreign opium dealers are in the dumps. The Chinese have levied a war tax of H. Ts. 80 per point on the foreign drug, while native opium escapes the impost. The natural consequence is that last month about 400 chests of the foreign drug were sold and this month the sales are not expected to exceed 100 chests.

A CURIOUS feature in connection with the Tea Conference, says a Hankow correspondent of the Shanghai *Courier*, writing on the 9th inst., is that the Glen Company threatens to put another steamer on, if the Cankai boat keeps up her rates. This seems like a split in the Conference, and as soon as it is broken up shippers will benefit. The first crop of tea is now finished, and there is a deficiency of 100,000 half-chests from Kiangsi, Hupeh and Hunan. Ninety per cent. of the tea merchants have realised good profits. It is feared the second crop will be much affected by the late wet weather. While we have here every indication of a flood I hear from the province of Shantung that their season has been exceptionally dry, no rain for over two months, and what should now be paddy fields is parched ground.

'LA MASCOITE' AT THE CITY HALL.

THE Mascotte Opera Company certainly has no reason to complain of lack of support in this Colony, the performance of 'La Mascotte' last night being attended by an audience that would bear comparison as to numbers with any that has assembled in the City Hall Theatre of late years. We have already given a sketch of the plot of the Mascotte, which turns upon the fortune-bringing influence of Bettina (the Mascotte, or luck-bringer) and upon the destruction of that influence by her marriage to the swain she loves, a sort of comical reminder of the pathetic story so sweetly elaborated in 'The Rose Maiden.' With the exception of one or perhaps two songs, there is no profusion of catkins numbers in the opera, and altogether it is difficult exactly to realise why the piece has achieved its popularity. There can be no question that the opera was well put on the stage last night, and it was received with the warmest appreciation, spite of the sultry air in the theatre. One of the features of the performance was the appearance of Mr. Tyrrell, in his favourite role of *Rocco*, the farmer. Mr. Tyrrell is clearly one of the best actors in the Company; and, whatever may be said for or against the particular style he adopted, as *Rocco*, it is beyond question that his quaint get-up and his humorous treatment of the character were consistent throughout. Some objection might be taken to some of the details—the impediment in his speech, for instance, which is apt to become monotonous—but there is no denying their comicality or the general appearance of comical misery which he presented. He also shows in that most difficult branch of acting, the art of listening intelligently. Mr. Tyrrell is evidently a low comedian of considerable power, and he will doubtless give further proofs of his capacity as the Company close their season here. He and the company are to be congratulated upon his recovery from illness. Just one word concerning the 'Book of the Words' furnished for the occasion. It is a pity that the publishers did not print what the performers sang and spoke, as the effect was confusing and not a little annoying. The dresses, by the way, were very handsome, and both in colour and texture were a credit to the 'rich and costly wardrobe' mentioned by the management.

In the role of Bettina, the Mascotte, Miss Davenport had a famous opportunity of displaying her remarkable versatility, and by sustaining the character in all its phases she added materially to the reputation which she has justly gained. Skillfully avoiding all temptations to vulgarity, her delineation never overstepped the bounds of good taste, while in the numberless phases of passion and feeling necessary to the part she displayed that conscious power which gives to the representation of comic opera its greatest charm. Her sprightliness was marvellous, and she fairly earned all the applause she ungrudgingly received. Miss Florence Seymour deservedly shared the laurels with the prima donna as *Fiametta*, the princess. This lady was in good voice, and she acted and sang with great spirit throughout, earning a hearty encore in her song of 'The attractive girl.' The minor female roles were better sustained than usual, Miss Blanche Thompson, as the *Schizarella*, appearing to considerable advantage.

Mr. Farley, in the part of *Pippo*, the shepherd, deserves first mention. This finished actor, who generally accons more at home in heavier parts, can play lighter roles most effectively when called upon to do so; and he personated the rustic, the troubadour, and the 'Captain bold' with equally good effect, as he did the fond lover. His duet with *Bettina*, 'When I behold your lovely form,' was scored as a matter of course, as this, the finest melody in the piece, was exceedingly well

rendered, albeit Mr. Farley's fine voice had just enough to do with the high notes. The *Prince Frederick* of Mr. Vernon Reid was altogether a satisfactory and consistent personation. He sang as well as usual and spoke his lines with more effect than he has yet done; and in his effective song 'Love is blind' he made a hit, and received an encore. For *Rocco* we have already said a good word, and hope to repeat a commendation of Mr. Tyrrell's efforts. The role of *King Lorenzo* undertaken by Mr. O'Brien is not the easy-going part generally allotted to this modest actor; but spite of the fact that he had a great deal to do, it must be admitted that he did it fairly well. His efforts to give a humorous rendering of his kingly role seemed to be appreciated by the audience, and his success was probably more marked than in any previous appearance. We may add that the choruses were fairly well up to the mark; and the piece altogether can safely be described as one of the most successful performances of the season.

'La Porchelle' is announced for to-morrow evening, a portion of 'The Bohemian Girl' and 'Trial by Jury' are spoken for Saturday, and 'Les Cloches de Corneville' is probably the selection for Tuesday next. Miss Davenport, we believe, takes her leave to-morrow week, but the opera to be presented has not yet, we believe, been fixed upon. It is possible that the Company will again visit Hongkong in the month of October.

Peking.

(From our Correspondent.)

June 4, 1885. It is rumoured that the present French Minister, M. Patenôtre, will soon retire from China, and that his successor has already been appointed. The post will very likely be given to Mr. Bonrêre, the former French Minister to China, or M. Lemaire, at present French Resident at Hôe. The experience in Chinese affairs of both these gentlemen would well qualify them for the appointment. The Chinese authorities at Peking feel somewhat uneasy about the British occupation of Port Hamilton, which it is feared may give rise to some complications. Nothing is heard about the railway scheme of Prince Chun, political affairs occupying fully the attention of H.I.H. and the other Chinese statesmen.

Again a gloom has been cast over the Peking community by the lamented death of Mr. James Smith, Audit Secretary of the Imperial Chinese Customs, on Sunday, the 31st May last. The deceased gentleman had been ill with remittent fever for several weeks. The funeral took place on Monday morning and was attended by all the members of the Customs staff, all the foreign Legations being also represented.

A great many changes have been made in the Customs. Mr. Hippesley has gone to Canton as Commissioner. Mr. Dase, Commissioner of Customs at Chiofo, has been appointed Chief Secretary to the Inspector-General and M. de Bernières, Chinese Secretary.

In the Diplomatic Corps we notice the departure of Signor de Luca, Italian Minister, for Chiofo and Corea, and the arrival of Monsieur Verhaeghe de Naegor, Belgian Minister, who, with Madame de Naegor and her niece, are at present staying at the Netherlands Legation.

The weather here is at present extremely hot, the thermometer registering 100° Fahrenheit in the shade.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GRASS-CUTTERS AND THE SPORTING CLUB.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Hongkong, June 17. Sir,—It was with astonishment and regret that I observed in the *Daily Press* of this morning a letter signed 'Truth,' and in the interests of truth and justice must beg to point out a few errors of fact which that letter contains.

The grass-cutters are not unmitigated pests; but are the wives and other relations of some of the domestic servants and labouring classes who administer to the comforts of 'Truth' and others.

The villages are not armed, nor were they ever, save in individual cases for their own protection, at a time when that was necessary.

The frightful crimes of Hak Ka villages are comprised in the double murder (horrible and deadly) but even that, the natural outcome of an offence against the social laws of the small village community, and not a crime showing lawlessness and turbulence in the people concerned, but rather a very exaggerated view of the manner of justice to be meted out for the, to them, grave crime of infidelity.

As to the injury done to the afforestation of the island I do not hear many complaints from those most concerned, certainly not sufficient to warrant the wholesale banishment of a large number of persons.

I hope that the suggestion never will be acted upon, as in such case I should blush to be an Englishman were such an injustice perpetrated on such slender grounds.

Of the Sporting Club I say nothing, as I merely wish to point out the erroneous statements as above quoted; and having in former years lived at these same villages, may be allowed to know something on a subject which perhaps 'Truth' might have studied more with advantage.

O. W. D.

Marine Court.

(Before Captain R. Murray Ramsey, R.N., Acting Harbour Master.)

Wednesday, June 17.

ABSOLUTE.

Thomas R. Henderson, cook on board the British steamer *Glenloch*, was charged with having assaulted William Gustavson, engineer's steward of the same ship, on the 11th inst., while the ship was on her passage from Saigon.

From the statement of complainant and Charles Henry Graham, second officer of the ship, it appears that last Thursday

morning complainant went to defendant, who is engineer's cook, and asked him for some coffee for the officers. Defendant refused to give the coffee, saying: 'I am too soft for you,' and threw some hot water over the complainant, and then struck him several times over the head.

Defendant denied having committed the assault. He was, however, fined \$10, or three days' hard labour.

DUNK AND DISORDERLY.

Charles Nelson, fireman on board the British steamer *Beatty*, was charged with creating a disturbance on board the steamer and using abusive language.

Captain Le Bouillier, master of the steamship *Beatty*, said that about half past five yesterday afternoon, defendant came to him and asked him for some money. He refused to give the money, and then defendant asked for his discharge, which was also refused. A short time afterwards, the chief engineer came to complainant and complained that defendant was using all kinds of insulting and abusive language. As defendant was intoxicated, and not to go forward, and as he seemed likely to cause a disturbance, complainant sent for the Police and had him arrested.

Robert Campbell, the chief engineer, said that about half past six the second engineer reported to him that defendant was using abusive language towards him and refused to go forward. Witness himself then ordered the defendant forward, and defendant then turned upon him and abused him.

Defendant said last night he got a dry throat and a cold, and was unable to go forward. He did not consider this sufficient for a man to do heavy work on, and he went and complained to the second engineer. The second engineer accused him of being drunk. He was not drunk, and so he called the second engineer a liar. That was all the abuse he uttered. He thought he was quite entitled to call any man a liar when that man accused him of being drunk when he was not.

His Worship admonished defendant, and discharged him, as he had been locked up all night.

Police Intelligence.

(Before E. Mackay, Esq.)

Wednesday, June 17.

ALLEGED ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.

Wong Achot, housekeeper, was charged with being concerned with others not in custody with assaulting and robbing Yip Alam, a shopkeeper, of a silver watch, gold chain, bangle, and a night pass, on the 16th inst.

Complainant was walking in the Queen's Road, close to the Civil Hospital, at 8.30 p.m. yesterday when he was attacked by four men who took away his goods, containing his purse, with \$7 in it, and his watch and chain. They also tore off a bangle from his wrist. He was unable to identify his assailants. The night pass and night pass produced were part of the property of which he was robbed.

Defendant stated that when he was assaulting with a lantern at midnight he found the girl and pass in the street. He told the other coolies, one of whom said he knew the man to whom the pass referred and defendant gave it to him. The charge was dismissed.

LARCENY.

Tang Akwon, tailor, was convicted of stealing a bundle of clothing worth \$23 from a tailor's apprentice who was carrying the bundle in the street. Defendant was sentenced to four weeks' hard labour.

SUMMONS DISMISSED.

George Lemon, keeper of a boarding house at No. 8 Queen's Road Central, was charged on a summons with having a greater number of seamen living in his boarding house than that authorised by his licence. Defendant admitted the charge and was discharged with a caution.

(Before H. E. Wodehouse, Esq.)

A ROW AMONGST THE BOARDING HOUSE KITCHENS.

Tso Hat, Lam Kok Yai and Lin Aing appeared on remand on a summons charging them with assaulting and beating the complainants, a number of opposition boarding house runners, on board the S. S. *Wing-sang* on the 5th inst.

On the steamer arriving from Singapore on the 5th inst., defendants and a number of other boarding house bouts went on board to induce the passengers to come to their respective boarding houses. A fight ensued between the defendants and some of the others in which some of the complainants were severely hurt.

The first defendant, who had a previous conviction for a similar offence recorded against him, was fined \$50, in default to be further committed for six weeks. Second and third defendants were fined \$5 each, or fourteen days' hard labour, and to be bound over in one security of \$5 each to be of good behaviour for six weeks. The complainants were also to find personal security in \$10 each to keep the peace for six weeks.

THE FRANCO-CHINESE NEGOTIATIONS.

October the Fourth, the Tientsin correspondent of the *N.-C. D. News*, writing on the 6th inst., supplies the reasons for the delay in completing the negotiations:—

The delays of which we have heard as occurring in the Franco-Chinese negotiations arose from extreme care exercised in preparing the translations of the French and Chinese terms. The interpreters have been very careful this time not to commit any error such as existed in the Li-Fourmier Treaty, and all words with ambiguous meanings and such which did not exactly correspond with the other version of the French, have been discussed with an amount of caution and care which will no doubt render the document faultless, when they have got through with it. The next action by Sir Robert Hart in the Franco-Chinese Treaty now being discussed in France makes him an object of jealousy among a great number of people in officialdom. His appointment to the diplomatic circle of Great Britain would be the only fit appointment for him after this piece of politics is finished.

WILL OF PETER THE GREAT.

THE FATHER OF RUSSIAN SHIP-BUILDING.

We present to our readers herewith an authentic copy of the will of Peter the Great, the first Emperor of Russia. This will is the supreme foundation and law of Russian politics, since, his time, and was confidentially deposited in the hands of the Abbe de Berne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1777, and also in those of Louis XV. A copy is also to be found in the diplomatic archives of France, from which we derive our translation. This will possesses special interest just now, in view of what is transpiring in Europe, and will prove of more than ordinary value to our readers. The will is to be found in the original

THE WILL.

Preliminary Considerations.

In the name of the most Holy and Indivisible Trinity, we, Peter, the First Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russians, etc., to all our descendants and successors in the throne and government of the Russian nation:—

God, from whom we derive our existence, and to whom we owe our crown, having enlightened us by His Spirit, and sustained us by His Divine help, allows us to look on to the Russian people, called upon by history to hold sway over Europe. My reason for thus thinking is, that the European nations have mostly reached a state of old age, bordering upon imbecility, or they are rapidly approaching it; naturally, then, they will be easily and undoubtedly conquered by a people strong in youth and vigor, especially when this latter shall have attained its full strength and power. I look on the future invasion of the Eastern and Western countries of the North as a periodical movement, ordained by Providence, who, in a like manner, regenerated the Russian nation by barbarian invasion. These emigrations of man from the North are as the reflux of the Nile, which, at certain periods comes to fertilize the impoverished lands of Egypt, by its waters, I found Russia as a result. I leave it as a river, my successors will make of it a large sea, destined to fertilize the impoverished lands of Europe, and its waters will overflow in direct of impending dangers created by weak hands, if our successors know how to direct its course. This is the reason I leave them the following instructions. I give those countries to their watchfulness and care, as Moses gave the Tables of the Law to the Jewish people.

I—Keep the Russian nation in a state of continual war; so as to have the soldier always under arms, and ready for action, excepting when the finances of the State will not allow of it. Keep up the forces; choose the best moments for attack. By these means you will be ready for war even in the time of peace. This is for the interest of the future aggrandizement of Russia.

II—Endeavour by every possible means to bring in from the neighbouring civilized countries of Europe officers in times of war, and leave them in times of peace, thus giving the Russian people the advantages enjoyed by other countries, without allowing them to lose any of their own self-respect.

III—On every occasion take part in the affairs and quarrels of Europe, always all in those of Germany, which country, being the nearest, more immediately concerns us. IV—Drive Poland, exciting civil discord there; win over the nobility by bribery, corrupt the diet, so as to have influence on the election of kings, and thus, by means of the electors, protect them, bring to sea-jour there Muscovite troops, until such times as they can be permanently established there. If the neighboring powers start difficulties, appease them for a time by proffering out the countries, if possible, can relate in detail all that has been said.

V—Take as much as you can from Sweden, and cause yourself to be attacked by her, so as to have a pretext for subduing her. To accomplish this, sever Denmark from Sweden, and Sweden, and Denmark, carefully keeping up their rivalries.

VI—Always choose, as wives for the Russian princes, German princesses, so as to increase family alliances, to draw mutual interests closer, and, by propagating our principles in Germany, to enlist her in our cause.

VII—England, requiring us for her navy, and she being the only power that can aid in the development of ours, seek a commercial alliance with her in preference to any other. Obtain her wool and the productions of her land for our use, and establish between her merchants, her sailors and ours, a continual intercourse; this will aid in perfecting the

SHIPPING IN CHINA, JAPAN,
PHILIPPINES, AND SIAM
WATERS.

WATERS.

WHAMPOA.

<i>Vessels' Names.</i>	<i>Flag & Co.</i>	<i>Destinations.</i>
Chefoo	Brit.	str. Hongkong
Fooksang	Brit.	str. Shanghai
Helene	Ger. Sm. sc.	

CANTON.

MERCHANT SAILING VESSELS.

Emmy	Brit.	str.
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Estrella	Span.	str.
Mary Austin	Brit.	str.
—		
MACAO.		
Kiang-ping	Amer.	str. Canton
—		
SWATOW.		
In port on June 16, 1885.		

Atholl	British
Fidelio	British
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AMOY.	
In port on June 13, 1885.	
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MERCHANT STEAMERS.	
Douglas	British
Duburg	German

Has-shin	American
MERCHANT SAILING VESSELS.	
Auguste	Br. 3m.sch.
L'Avvenier	Brit. bgo.
Chatley	Brit. bgo.

Hugo & Otto	Norm. bqe.
M. A. Dixon	Brit. bqe.
Loeng Wha	Brit. sch.

In port on June 12, 1885.

MERCHANT STEAMERS.	
Gleneagles	British
Killarney	British
Ningchow	British

Minna	Brit.	bq.
Hedvig	Brit.	bq.
Wagrien	Ger.	sch.

SHANGHAI.
In port on June 13, 1885.

Amoy	British
Ancona	Russian
Brindisi	British
Danishkin	British

Glenartney	British	
Kiang-piau	American	Hankow, &c
Kiang-yung	American	
Nestor	British	
Pekin	British	Hankow, &c

Store Nordiske	Danish
Wismar	German
Yuen Wo	British
Yung-ning	American Wenchow

MERCHANT SAILING VESSELS.

Ch. Wattana	Siam	bqe.
Helena	Brit.	bqe.
Iolanthe	Brit.	sh.
McLaurin	Amer.	sh.
Meridian	Siam.	bqe.

P. J. Carleton Amer. bqs.

NAGASAKI.

• In port on June 6, 1885:

Kozaki Maru Japan. bqs.

In port on June 6, 1885.		
Androkles	Brit.	bqs.
O. B. Carver	Am.	sh.
Guam	Brit.	bqs.
Harmonia	Ger.	sh.

Lennie Burrill	Brit.	sh.
Loiterer	Brit.	sch.
Mary C. Bohm	Ger.	sch.
Pactolus	Amer.	sh.

FIROO.

Queen Emma Brit. bqs.
MANILA.
In port on May 15, 1885.
Christine Ger. bqs.

Gamen	Swed. bqe.
Hudson	Amer. bqe.
Margarita	Span. bg.
Mervion	Amer. bqe.
Wakefield	Amer. bqe.

George Moon	Ger. hqs.
Thos. Dana	Amer. sh.
Tsernogora	Brit. sh.

Samar	Amer.	sh.
Sarmatian	Brit.	sh.

BANGKOK.
In port on May 30, 1885.

Amity	Brit.	bqe.
Ban Lee	Siam.	bqe.
Bua Pan	Siam.	bqe.
Caroline	Siam.	sch.
Ch'ron Kamrye	Siam.	bqe.
Ch'ron Kamrye	Siam.	bqe.

Cometen	Swed. bqs.
Confucius	Siam. sch.
Diamond City	Siam. bqs.
Doretta	Siam. bg.
Eng Lee	Siam. bqs.

Fortune	Siam.	sch.
Kim Ohye Seng	Siam.	sch.
Koon Lee	Siam.	sch.
Siamese Crown	Siam.	sh.
Queen of England	Siam.	sh.

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